

Arizona Medical Marijuana Program Frequently Asked Questions

Designated Caregivers

DC01: Can I apply to be a designated caregiver?

No, state law specifies that only a qualifying patient can submit an application designating an individual as the qualifying patient's designated caregiver.

DC02: How can I become a designated caregiver?

A qualifying patient must apply for a designated caregiver, and only if the designated caregiver meets [specific requirements](#). The requirements for a designated caregiver are specified in [state law](#) and include that the individual must be at least 21 years of age, agree to assist the qualifying patient in the medical use of marijuana, and have not been convicted of an excluded felony offense. An individual may be a designated caregiver for no more than five qualifying patients. A designated caregiver does not have to be a home health aide or other professional caregiver.

DC03: Do I need a separate card for each of my qualifying patients?

Yes. Each patient must apply for you separately as the designated caregiver, so you will have a separate card for each qualifying patient you help.

DC04: Can I be both a qualifying patient and a designated caregiver?

Yes, an individual may be both a qualifying patient and the designated caregiver for another qualifying patient as long as the individual meets the [requirements](#) for both.

DC05: If I am a designated caregiver, can I use marijuana?

A designated caregiver must [pledge](#) not to divert marijuana to anyone not allowed to possess marijuana under the Arizona Medical Marijuana Act. Therefore, a designated caregiver may not use marijuana unless the designated caregiver is also a qualifying patient.

DC06: If I already have a fingerprint clearance card from another job, why do I need to submit another fingerprint card to be a designated caregiver?

The list of [offenses](#) that would prevent a fingerprint clearance card from being issued to a teacher, child care worker, or other [individuals required](#) to obtain these, is not the same as the list of "[excluded felony offenses](#)" for which designated caregivers are checked. Therefore, all designated caregivers are required to submit fingerprints in a Department-provided format as part of the applications for registry identification cards unless their fingerprints were submitted within the previous six months as part of another application to the medical marijuana program.

DC07: Where can I have my fingerprints taken to send to the Department?

A caregiver will need to contact either a local law enforcement agency or a private company to have their fingerprints taken. There is more information on the [Caregivers](#) page.

DC08: Will I need to send in prints every year with the renewal application?

Designated caregivers must submit prints at renewal (yearly), unless the designated caregiver has submitted fingerprints for a different registry identification card in the previous 6 months.

DC09: If I am a designated caregiver, can I grow marijuana?

A designated caregiver can grow marijuana for a qualifying patient's medical use only if the qualifying patient's home is more than 25 miles from the nearest dispensary and the qualifying patient has designated the caregiver as the one who should be approved to [cultivate marijuana](#) on the qualifying patient's behalf. The [amount of marijuana](#) a designated caregiver may grow or possess is limited by the number of qualifying patients who the designated caregiver is assisting.

DC10: What if I live less than 25 miles from a dispensary, but the qualifying patient does not? Can I grow medical marijuana?

When a qualifying patient lives more than 25 miles from a dispensary and has authorized the designated caregiver to grow, the caregiver may [cultivate marijuana](#) on the qualifying patient's behalf. The [amount of marijuana](#) a designated caregiver may grow or possess is limited by the number of qualifying patients who the designated caregiver is assisting.

DC11: What if my qualifying patient lives less than 25 miles from a dispensary, but I don't. Can I grow medical marijuana?

Neither the patient nor the qualified caregiver will be authorized to grow marijuana when a qualifying patient lives less than 25 miles from a dispensary.

DC12: How much can I grow?

The [amount of marijuana](#) a designated caregiver may grow or possess is limited by the number of qualifying patients who the designated caregiver is assisting. It is limited to 12 plants per qualifying patient.

DC13: Can I grow outside?

Designated caregivers can grow marijuana outside when authorized to grow marijuana and who comply with the [law](#), growing the marijuana in an [enclosed, locked facility](#): a closet, room, greenhouse, or other enclosed area equipped with locks or other security devices that permit access only by a cardholder. "Enclosed area" is defined in rule as an outdoor space surrounded by solid 10-foot walls constructed of metal, concrete, or stone that prevent any viewing of the marijuana plants, with a one-inch-thick metal gate.

DC14: How much will it cost to apply for a registry identification card or a dispensary registration certificate?

The fees are listed in rules and include:

- \$150 for an initial or a renewal registry identification card for a qualifying patient. Some qualifying patients may be eligible to pay \$75 for initial and renewal cards if they currently participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

- \$200 for an initial or a renewal registry identification card for a designated caregiver. A caregiver must apply for a new card for every patient under their care (up to five patients).
- \$500 for an initial or a renewal registry identification card for a dispensary agent.
- \$5,000 for an initial dispensary registration certificate.
- \$1,000 for a renewal dispensary registration certificate.
- \$2,500 to change the location of a dispensary or cultivation facility.
- \$10 to amend, change, or replace a registry identification card.